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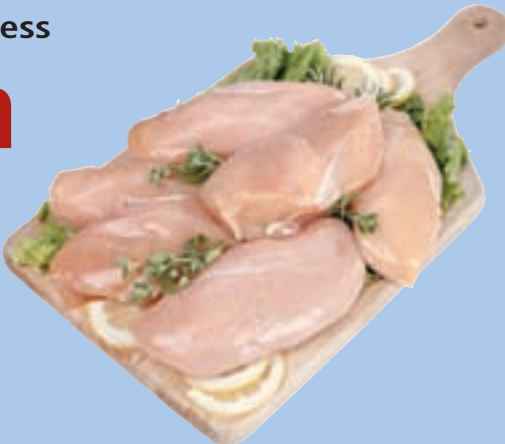
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\*See Store For Details



# High-end high-rise planned on Flatbush

## Steiner Studios behind bid for giant building

By Kate Briquetelet  
The Brooklyn Paper

He has a background in real estate and a name linked with entertainment, but the developer behind the borough’s newest proposed luxury high-rise says he’s no Donald Trump — and he’s not building a garish, Trump-like tower.

Douglas Steiner insists his proposed 720-unit, 52-story rental building, which could begin rising at the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Schermerhorn Street early next year, will offer Brooklyn a refined, modern skyscraper that “will be more interesting than the typical rental box.”

“I’m the anti-Trump, starting with the hair,” said Steiner, who along with running the

development company Steiner NYC oversees the Navy Yard movie lot Steiner Studios. “Nothing we do is gaudy but has an industrial and clean aesthetic.”

One story taller than Lawrence Street’s The Brooklynier, the borough’s highest building, and just steps away from the Barclays Center and the historic 37-story Williamsburg Savings Bank tower, the planned \$325-million high-rise — called “The Hub” — could reshape the borough’s skyline.

But Steiner says his design of masonry and glass will pay tribute to the nearby Williamsburg Savings Bank — Brooklyn’s answer to Manhattan skyscrapers — with a series of architectural setbacks.

“We didn’t want to build a

monolith,” said Steiner, who also owns 58 and 80 Metropolitan, a condo project in Williamsburg, and 25 Washington Ave., an extension of Steiner Studios.

The development is slated to replace a state parole office and set of low-rise properties.

Market-rate units will rent for between \$40 to \$50 a square foot, with 1,000-square-foot pads going for about \$4,000 per month.

Residents will enjoy a giant landscaped sun deck, health club, dog run, grilling terrace, and bike storage, Steiner says.

The building will also boast about 144 units of “affordable housing.”

But it’s the 50,000 square feet slated for retail — includ-

ing second-floor store space on Third and Flatbush avenues — and that has Downtown real estate gurus excited.

“This is great for the appearance of our gateway into Brooklyn,” said real estate insider and broker Chris Havens. “Good retail is needed to improve the feeling of the street.”

Steiner joked that his enviable location at the crossroads of Boerum Hill, Prospect Heights, Fort Greene, and Downtown could be the magnet that finally lures the borough’s first Apple store — retail outposts that often pop up in eye-catching modern constructions or historic buildings.

“I’m sure Marty Markowitz will be calling Apple to come on over,” he said.



Steiner Studios will build a 52-story residential tower on a gritty section of Schermerhorn Street.

# Flea’s food fest wants drinks too

## But civic group says no

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Williamsburg food festival Smorgasburg wants to add alcohol to the menu — but neighborhood leaders put that plan on ice.

Community Board 1’s public safety committee denied a request by Brooklyn Flea co-founder Eric Demby to get a seasonal liquor license so he can serve locally brewed beer, wine and liquor at his popular outdoor market on N. Sixth Street — even though Demby insisted his event would be quiet and family-friendly.

“We have a lot of families who come to our businesses so this won’t be a rowdy scene,” said Demby. “This is really about showcasing local producers.”

But the board — which has previously tried to heighten outdoor drinking regulations — voted 3–2 against the Smorgasburg plan, worrying that neighbors living along Kent Avenue — who are already outraged about intoxicated post-concert crowds — won’t welcome more potentially intoxicated visitors.

“Saturday is a family day for many residents who live [near the East River] and they take that time to play games and relax,” said CBI public safety committee member Rob Solano. “Anytime you add alcohol to that environment, it changes the dynamic of the venue.”

Smorgasburg’s application will go before the full board, where it would likely be approved so long as Demby brings a petition with scores of signatures from residents in favor of the food-and-alcohol plan and letters of support from public officials, a CBI source said.

The food-only offshoot of the Brooklyn Flea opened last May in a lot adjacent to the East River and immediately attracted thousands of hungry denizens who feasted on spinach pupusas, tacos, lobster rolls, roasted garlic toast, cornflake cookies, and vegan



Eric Demby

ice cream.

This year, Demby hopes to add small batches of beer, wine and gin to the mix by opening a 10-foot bar in the center of the property, cordoned off from the food in a 30-foot by 50-foot pen in time for the market’s April 7 opening.

Bartenders would serve eight to 10-ounce cups of beer from Brooklyn Brewery, Kelso, and Six Point, as well as wine from Brooklyn Winery, and gin cocktails from Kings County Distillery, Breuckelen Distilling, and the New York Distilling Company — whose distiller can’t wait to introduce his gin to Smorgasburg’s thirsty masses.

“There’s no better place to have a gin and tonic than on the Brooklyn waterfront at the Brooklyn Flea,” said New York Distilling Company’s Tom Potter.

Harry Rosenblum, co-founder of the cooking school and store, Brooklyn Kitchen said bringing Brooklyn-centric beer and spirits to Smorgasburg is a no-brainer, considering the food festival’s objective.

“The goal of Smorgasburg is to support people making things and they should be able to highlight locally made beverages, bitters, and cocktails, in the same way they highlight other locally made food products,” said Rosenblum.

A much smaller winter version of the Smorgasburg has already shacked up inside the nearby Brooklyn Brewery on Sundays, where beer is readily available.

# The need for speed ... bumps

## Cobble Hill parents say Hicks Street crossing is accident waiting to happen

By Kate Briquetelet  
The Brooklyn Paper

Children walking to school will be hit by unseen, speeding cars unless the city installs bumps and mirrors at a dangerous Hicks Street intersection, Cobble Hill parents claim.

As a service road for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, Hicks Street attracts plenty of hurried drivers — but in recent years, the crossing at Kane Street has become packed with children heading to PS 29 two blocks away, according to families.

“People are in a rush and can’t see the little kids about to

cross the street,” said Madeley Rodriguez, the mother of a PS 29 second-grader who has witnessed several near-misses. “If we don’t fix it now, something bad is bound to happen.”

Hicks Street has two lanes of northbound traffic and one lane of southbound traffic, separated by a median that serves as an overpass above the highway. Pedestrians — many of them condo dwellers on Tiffany Place — say crossing from the median is particularly dangerous because motorists tend to hug the curb and a tall fence obstructs views, making it difficult for drivers to see walk-



Parents are calling for speed bumps and flashing signs at a treacherous crossing on Hicks Street — where they say some kids are dodging cars in order to get to PS 29 in Cobble Hill.

ers and vice versa.

Even with stop lights and a crossing guard, parents say the corner is an accident waiting to happen.

“The neighborhood is changing and the street is not,” said Rebecca Katz, who lives near the intersection and doesn’t let her toddler out of his stroller when they walk past. “Every weekday, you see a bunch of kids coming over the BQE with huge trucks racing by.”

Officials with the Department of Transportation met with residents last week to discuss installing speed bumps on Hicks Street and other nearby

danger zones, including Henry and Kane streets and Henry and Baltic streets — a process that would require a months-long study.

A Transportation spokeswoman said that the agency will look into extending the sidewalks on Kane and Hicks streets and provide a temporary speed board in the area.

Slowing down motorists on their way to the BQE won’t be easy — but parents say the city must do something before it’s too late.

“Everyone is frightened, yet we have all this talk and no action,” Katz said.

# P.O. closing sparks Columbia St. mail-strom

By Natalie O’Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

The federal government is closing the only post office in the Columbia Street Waterfront District — but residents

in the isolated neighborhood say the branch shouldn’t be stamped out.

The U.S. Postal Service must close its Columbia Street location by March 31 so it can

afford to pay employee salaries, a spokeswoman said.

But residents are circulating a petition demanding the post office near President Street remain open, saying they need a

nearby spot for stamps.

“It’s a big inconvenience,” said Norman Cox of the Columbia Waterfront Neighborhood Association.

The closest post office, on

Clinton and Bush streets in Red Hook, is 15 blocks away.

The petition garnered 200 signatures in just 24 hours. And post office employees say they understand the com-

munity’s frustration.

“I feel bad for people in the neighborhood,” said Rita Farone, who ran the post office branch for 17 years. “And now I gotta find another job.”

# BIKE LANE

Continued from page 1

“The lawsuit clock started running only after Department of Transportation [installed it] permanently,” said Winston, who filed the brief on Friday.

The lawsuit — which last year earned international headlines and fueled rifts amongst Park Slope neighbors — alleged that the bike lane turned the peaceful street into a danger zone for

pedestrians. It also claimed that Department of Transportation fudged data to make the lane seem more successful than it really was.

In August, Bunyan dismissed the lawsuit based on legal minutia — but also noted parts of the lawsuit were “without merit.”

Neighbors for Better Bike Lanes now contends the judge “committed errors” and that the ruling “should be re-

versed.”

The argument might hold up in court, but it still makes plenty of bike-riding neighbors roll their eyes.

“It’s like arguing about contraception: it’s already here — and everybody’s using it,” said bike-boosting neighbor Mitch Sonies. “They should get a life.”

Longtime cycling advocate Eric McClure was disappointed by the appeal.

“It’s kind of sad,” he said.

The city expects to trounce bike lane critics in their appeal.

“We are confident that the trial court’s decision in our favor will be upheld on appeal,” said Mark Muschenheim, senior council for the city’s Law Department. “The popular bike path continues to enhance the safety of all who use Prospect Park West.”

# FOWLER

Continued from page 1

utilized space,” said Philip Kellogg, director of the business group. “If somebody doesn’t want to sit in it, they don’t have to. The beauty is that it’s there for people to use.”

But drivers fear they’ll lose a speedy route to Ful-

ton Street from the one-way, southbound S. Elliott Place. Instead, they would be forced to turn left on Lafayette Avenue and travel one block until they reach S. Portland Avenue, where they can turn right and reach Fulton Street.

Other called the proposed park unsafe for amblers, as

the tiny lot is flanked on two sides by busy streets.

Kellogg said that the Department of Transportation will address traffic concerns at a community workshop this week.

“The rehabilitation of Fowler Square would be a win for the neighborhood,” said Fort Greene Association chairman Paul Palazzo. “It’s just a matter of making it work.”

# LANDMARK

Continued from page 1

inconsistent with the historic character.”

Indeed, merchants and property owners near the new home of the Brooklyn Nets have already begun putting their land up for sale — raising concerns that a real-estate gold rush near the arena will change the look of Park Slope dramatically.

The proposed district would force owners of landmarked properties to seek special permits from the Landmarks Preservation Commission before

altering the facades of their buildings or demolishing their homes, but it won’t include retail establishments on Flatbush and Fifth avenues.

The Civic Council has fought for years to implement a three-phase Park Slope landmarking plan that initially called for preserving almost every building in the neighborhood, but the group began pushing for the smaller historic zone because it is more likely to gain city approval, said Peter Bray, chair of the council’s historic district committee.

Bray claims the landmarking push isn’t a direct response to scheduled opening of the Barclays Center, as the proposal has been in the works for years. But he says the historic zone would help if an arena-influenced wave of development hits Park Slope.

“It’s a tool for preserving architecture integrity, the character of the streetscape

and quality of life — and Atlantic Yards has some bearing on that,” said Bray.

Levin — who has not taken a strong public stand on the Atlantic Yards project — also refused to link the landmarking push to the mega-development, but said historic districts can protect buildings that need to be saved.

“As development increases throughout Brooklyn, it is more and more important to preserve the historic character of Park Slope,” said Levin.

Landmarks officials are midway through a survey examining the neighborhood’s “architectural and historical significance” and are now “working to finalize boundaries,” according to spokeswoman Lisi De Bourbon.

It is unlikely the city will approve the district before the Barclays Center opens its doors in September, considering that a similar proposal to expand a landmarked district in South Park Slope has taken about a year and a half with a scheduled final vote in April.

# CONDOMS

Continued from page 1


a photo op, he said.

Now, the hot dog entrepreneur is hoping Williamsburg diners think to multitask by grabbing a bite and restocking their prophylactics in one fell swoop.

He seems to be having some success — the latex

shields have been such a hot commodity that he has started disperse them at his other restaurant in Manhattan too.

Get your condoms at Crif Dogs [555 Driggs Ave. at N. 7th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3200]. For info, visit crifdogs.com.



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# Adams joins Beep race

**By Daniel Bush**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

State Sen. Eric Adams wants your vote this fall — and next fall, too.

The Flatbush Democrat is throwing his hat in the ring for what’s expected to be a bruising race to replace Borough President Markowitz as Brooklyn’s highest-profile, but largely powerless, booster-in-chief. And he’s doing it while running again for his seat in Albany.

“I’ve always wanted to be borough president,” said Adams, who faces a state Senate election this fall and a borough president election

the following year.

Adams announced his intentions to run through his longtime chief of staff, Ingrid Martin, who sent an email to a circle of supporters this week appealing for contributions for his currently penniless Beep campaign fund in advance of a March 8 fundraiser.

“The road to Borough Hall is long and can be rocky, but with your continued support we [can] set a smooth course,” Martin said.

The three-term lawmaker would be Brooklyn’s first African American borough president — potentially giving him a big boost from

black voters.

But Adams — a retired cop and founding member of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, and who is perhaps best known for his controversial “Stop the Sag” campaign to get kids to hike up their pants — has no cash on hand and his opponent has deep pockets.

Carlo Scissura, a special adviser and former chief of staff to Borough President Markowitz, reported raising \$127,000 in his first 100 days as a candidate — the fastest of any Brooklyn Borough Hall hopeful in history, according to the Campaign Finance Board.

“Let’s see who raises the

money [to be competitive],” Scissura said. “It’s early and 2013 is a long ways off.”

Scissura said he would ease overcrowding in schools, bring manufacturing jobs back to the borough and expand ferry service to Southern Brooklyn, among other initiatives.

Adams was short on spe-



Eric Adams

cifics, saying he’s still focused on getting reelected as a state Senator this fall in an election that became

more interesting after Senate Republicans proposed maps for new legislative districts that would cut Adams out of his Crown Heights-to-Sunset Park district. Adams said he would move into the new district if necessary, but expects the proposal won’t be approved.

City campaign finance officials say Adams can open a fundraising committee for the state Senate race and for the borough president race simultaneously — and if he loses the primary for Beep

he can fall back on his old Albany seat, so long as he wins this fall.

Besides Adams and Scissura, several others are rumored to be eyeing a run to replace Markowitz, who’s term-limited out of office in 2013, including state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D–Brooklyn Heights), Assemblyman Nick Perry (D–Flatbush) and City Councilmembers Dominic Recchia (D–Coney Island) and Letitia James (D–Fort Greene).

— with Aaron Short

# Teen dead in W’burg football stab

## 90TH PRECINCT

**Southside–Bushwick**

A violent thug fatally stabbed a 17-year-old Bronx boy in the parking lot of a Lorimer Street grocery store on Feb. 11.

Police say Edgar Soto was at the Key Foods near Grand Street at 11:30 pm when he got into an argument with the assailant and several others.

The man became enraged, stabbed Soto in his chest, and ran away, according to cops. Soto’s sister called police and emergency workers took Soto to Woodhull Hospital, where he was declared dead at 12:14 am.

Police are searching for the suspect, who they believe is a 5-foot-5 Latino male who was seen wearing a red hat, blue jeans, and a black sweatshirt.

## iPhone push

A jerk stole a woman’s iPhone while she was entering her Montrose Avenue building on Feb. 12.

The victim told police she entering her building near Graham Avenue at 3:30 am when the perp pushed her into the lobby and took out a gun.

He said, “B----, give me all your stuff!” so she gave up her purse and her phone, and he ran away.

## Cash grab

A crook stole \$400 from a man on Keap Street on Feb. 8.

The victim told police he was near Hope Street at 12:35 pm when the man approached and said, “I lost something, you have it,” and then threatened him.

The victim took out his wallet, and the thief grabbed his cash and ran away.

## iPickpocket

A thief grabbed a woman’s iPhone on Morgan Avenue on Feb. 11, said cops.

The victim told police she was near Harrison Place at 3:40 pm when the man reached into her pocket and took the phone.

Cops arrested a suspect later that day.

— Aaron Short

## 84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown**

## iFight

Thugs assaulted a man on Fulton Street on Feb. 7 and stole his iPhone after he refused to give up the device without a fight.

The victim said he was near Flatbush Avenue Extension at 3:50 pm when three crooks approached and one of them said, “Give me your iPhone.” But instead of hand-

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ing it over, the man shot back, “You’re going to have to take it from me.”

The thugs then punched him in the face several times and took his phone.

## Cell snatch

A thief swiped a woman’s cellphone on Cadman Plaza East on Feb. 9.

The woman told police she was near Red Cross Place at 7 pm when the crook snatched her iPhone and fled.

## No service

A crook stole a woman’s cellphone on Fulton Street on Feb. 7.

The woman said she was near Hoyt Street at 6 pm when the thief grabbed the device.

## Break-in

A crook swiped a treasure trove of jewelry and electronics from a Pacific Street home on Feb. 7.

The occupant said she left her apartment between Hoyt and Bond streets at 7:30 am. When she came back at 7:30 pm, her front door was ajar and jewelry, her laptop, DVD player, and iPod were gone.

## Cash grab

A crook stole \$5,700 from a diner at a Livingston Street hamburger joint on Feb. 7.

The burger lover told cops that he was at restaurant between Pearl and Smith streets at 10 am when the thief reached into his pocket, grabbed the wad of cash, and fled.

## Head game

A thief stole a man’s headphones at the Pacific Street subway station on Feb. 6.

The victim told police he was waiting for a Bay Ridge-bound R train at station near Fourth Avenue at 4:20 pm when the crook grabbed the headphones and ran away.

## Wallet yanked

A thief stole a man’s wallet at a Smith Street pharmacy on Feb. 8.

The victim told cops that he left the wallet at the cash register at the store between Wyckoff and Bergen streets at 5:40 pm. When he returned 30 minutes later, the billfold was missing.

— Daniel Bush

## 78TH PRECINCT

**Park Slope**

## Bad blade

A thug sliced a man on 14th Street on Feb. 11.

The victim told cops he was walking to his cousin’s apartment near Prospect Park West at 11:55 pm, when three gangsters wearing black and yellow approached.

“You down with the Kings?” one of them asked.

The poor guy said he wasn’t — but that he wasn’t really against them, either. One of the bullies then pointed to the victim’s yellow and black shoes and asked, “Why you rockin’ those colors then?”

The thugs then started to punch him — and one slashed him with a razor blade before running away.

## Bike bandit

A quick-moving thief swiped a sweet bicycle from a shop on Fifth Avenue on Feb. 8.

A manager at R & A Cycles told cops that someone snatched a light-weight Pinarello road bike — made of carbon fiber — from the rear of the shop near Park Place between 4 and 6 pm. The crook likely entered through the back door and used a rope to hoist the bike onto the roof, he said.

## Shady, shades

A crook swiped some eye-

glasses from a bar-goer on Fifth Avenue on Feb. 5.

The victim told cops that a woman walked into Ginger’s Pub, a gay bar near Fifth Street, at 1:45 am and asked the bar-goer for a dollar. The lady turned her down — so the crook snatched her brown glasses and ran away.

## Bad car-ma

A thief stole two vans parked on Ninth Street on Feb. 7.

A worker from Good Shepherd Services — a social service agency that helps youth — told cops that he parked two silver-colored Ford vans near Fourth Avenue at 8 pm. He came back at 8:30 am the next day and discovered they were gone — with no sign of broken glass.

## Jersey getaway

A perp swiped a cellphone from a woman on Fourth Avenue on Feb. 7.

The victim told cops she was near Sixth Street at 1:10 pm when a man grabbed a black iPhone from her hand. He then jumped into a green car with New Jersey plates and sped away.

— Natalie O’Neill

## 76TH PRECINCT

**Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook**

## iPunch

Two thugs attempted to rob a man on Van Brunt Street on Feb. 3.

The victim told cops that he was near Sullivan Street at 3:10 pm when he was approached by the two crooks.

“Give me your iPad,” one of the goons barked, but the victim wasn’t bearing any Apple products, so one of the would-be thieves punched him in the face and fled.

## Goon gang

Seven thugs attacked a woman on Baltic Street on Feb. 7.

The victim told police she was near Clinton Street on her way home at 4:15 pm when the gang of goons attacked her — throwing her to the ground, then punching and kicking her.

## Masked

A gun-wielding thug robbed a man on First Place on Feb. 8.

The victim said he was passing Henry Street on his way home from the bar at around 10:30 pm when a man in a green mask approached him from behind.

“Give me what you got,” the goon demanded, pointing the gun. The victim gave up \$60 and the thief fled.

## Bar slug

A troublemaker slugged a woman in the face at a watering hole on Atlantic Avenue on Feb. 11.

The victim told police she was lounging at Last Exit near Clinton Street at around 11 pm when the thug whacked her, causing her lip to bleed.

— Colin Mixson

## 77TH PRECINCT

**Prospect Heights**

## Bike clip

A jerk driver clipped a cyclist on Washington Avenue on Feb. 8.

The victim told cops that she was pedaling north near St. Marks Avenue at 8 am when a white Honda turned left and struck her. The driver did not stop.

## School swiped

A school bus hit a parked car on Underhill Avenue on Feb. 8 — and then sped away.

A witness told cops that

the bus collided with a parked vehicle near Lincoln Place at 4:30 pm.

## Thugged

Two jerks robbed two women on Vanderbilt Avenue on Feb. 13.

The women told cops that they were leaving the bar near Bergen Street at 4:20 am when two men came up behind them and struck them both in the face. The dangerous duo ran off with one of the victim’s wallet.

## Cashed out

A crook stole hundreds of dollars from a woman at a Flatbush Avenue ATM on Feb. 8.

The victim told cops that she was withdrawing cash from a Chase bank near Eighth Avenue at 1:25 pm when her child dropped something.

While bending over to pick it up, someone made off the \$420 she got from the machine.

## Diner ditch

Three freeloaders ditched their bill at a burrito joint on Flatbush Avenue on Feb. 11.

Workers at Burrito Bar told cops that the three jerks came in to the shop between Prospect Place and Seventh Avenue at 11 pm and enjoyed dinner and drinks.

When it came time to pay for their feast an hour later, the diners ditched the \$131 tab and fled.

## Jumped

Cops say three teens beat up a girl on Prospect Place on Feb. 8.

The young victim told police that she was near Grand Avenue when the three jumped her, punching and kicking her, and leaving her with injuries that required treatment at a hospital.

Cops said they arrested three teenagers.

— Eli Rosenberg

## 88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene–Clinton Hill**

## Mobile stickup

A tag-team of thieves held up a Myrtle Avenue cellphone store on Feb. 10 — tying up a worker and running out with cash.

The employee told police that the crooks entered the shop near Ryerson Street at 1:15 pm. “Everything is going to be fine,” said one of the miscreants, while flashing a gun.

Cops say that the goons brought the frightened worker to the back of the store and tied him up with duct tape. They snatched \$412 and three phones before fleeing north on Grand Avenue.

## Hit-and-run

A cold-hearted thief boosted a delivery van from Greene Avenue on Feb. 7 and ran over the driver when he tried to stop him.

The victim told police that he parked near Waverly Avenue at 10:20 am, leaving the keys in the ignition. Ten minutes later, a crook was in the driver’s seat.

The hapless deliveryman jumped in front of the vehicle to stop the thief, but the ruffian ran him over and sped off.

The victim dislocated his hip and was transported to Kings County Hospital by emergency responders.

## Apple pry

Three marauders allegedly attacked a man on Hanson Place on Feb. 11 and swiped his iPod Touch.

The victim told cops he was near Flatbush Avenue at 9:39 pm when the robbers threatened him with a razorblade. One of the goons sliced his forehead, while another broke his headphones and snatched his device, he said.

Police arrested a trio of 20-something suspects at the scene.

## Calling collect

Police say two gun-wielding outlaws mugged a man on Carlton Avenue on Jan. 27 for his cellphone.

The victim told cops that he was near Atlantic Avenue at 3:30 pm when two robbers approached him and rifled through his pockets.

One of them ran off with a Boost Mobile phone, \$35, and a Metrocard. Police say they arrested one suspect shortly after.

## Driven to crime

Five swindlers in sunglasses snatched a trio of motorcycles from a parking garage on Park Avenue on Feb. 12.

The security guard told cops that he was on the second floor of the carport near Washington Avenue when a white van drove in at 3:35 am. A group of men jumped out of the vehicle, lifted three choppers, and scrambled.

## Toy gun

Cops claim a teen thief brandished a fake gun on Cumberland Street on Feb. 8 and tried to scare another kid into giving him money.

The 12-year-old victim told police that he was near Greene Avenue at 3:30 pm when the young crook wielded the phony pistol.

Police say they arrested a 14-year-old suspect.

## Bling sting

An evildoer snatched more than \$6,000 in diamond necklaces from a luxury jewelry warehouse on Flushing Avenue on Feb. 8.

A worker told cops that he was in the store near Chauncey Avenue at 3 pm, photographing his precious stones.

He left the chains on the counter and when he returned two hours later, they were gone.

## Jump the gun

A punk simulating a gun robbed a teen of his iPhone on Greene Avenue on Feb. 7.

The 12-year-old victim told police that he was near Cumberland Street at 5 pm when the perp approached him and said, “Did you know who jumped my cousin?”

The thief showed off the handle of a gun in his waistband, then yanked the kid’s cellphone before fleeing.

## Help yourself

Thieves boosted at least three other vehicles this week, including a plumb- ing van filled with copper wire:

- Some knave stole a 2002 Ford van from Washington Avenue on Feb. 7 — driving off with \$23,000 in tools and copper piping.

- The Queens plumber told police that he parked near Park Avenue at noon. When he returned half an hour later, his vehicle was gone.
- A bandit stole a brand-new sedan from Carlton Avenue on Feb. 7.

The victim told cops he parked near Fulton Street at 1:30 pm. When he returned that night, his \$12,000 Nissan Sentra was gone.

- Some goon drove away with a 1987 Buick parked on Washington Avenue on Feb. 7.

The victim told police that he parked near DeKalb Avenue at 10 am. When he returned the next morning, his \$1,000 blue sedan was gone.

- A thief nabbed a motorbike on Park Avenue on Feb. 3.

The victim told cops that he parked near Clermont Avenue at 6 pm. When he returned three days later, his white 1993 Honda was gone.

— Kate Briquetelet

## 68TH PRECINCT

**Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights**

## Hot wheels

A flamer set fire to a BMW parked on Shore Road on Feb. 5.

The victim told cops that

he parked his fancy ride between Fort Hamilton High School at 4 am. He came outside at 11 am to find the inside of his car on fire.

## Cash heist

Thieves stole more than \$20,000 in cash and jewelry from a Seventh Avenue apartment on Feb. 10.

The victim told cops that she left her house between 68th Street and Bay Ridge Avenue at 11 am. When she returned 12 hours later, she found two diamond bracelets and \$20,000 missing from her dresser.

## Rob fresh

A sly thief broke into a Third Avenue Subway restaurant on Feb. 8 and stole \$300.

Owners told cops that employees left the shop between Bay Ridge Parkway and 76th Street at 1:30 am. When they returned at 9:30 the next morning, they found the surveillance camera disabled and cash missing from the safe and register.

## Deli heist

Thieves swiped cash — and the register — from a Fifth Avenue deli on Feb. 6.

Owners told cops that they left the store between 79th and 80th streets at 9 pm. When they returned at 12:45 am, they found the register, and \$3,000, missing.

— Dan MacLeod

## 94TH PRECINCT

**Greenpoint–Northside**

## Four-on-one

Four hooligans attacked a man on the Bedford Avenue L train platform on Feb. 11.

The victim told police he waiting for a train at the station near N. Seventh Street at 6 am when the men approached him. One spray-painted him in the face, another bit his fingers, and the others threw him against a pillar and punched him in the face.

They then ripped his jacket, took \$83, and ran out of the station toward N. Seventh Street.

## Teen spirit

Four teenagers beat up a 15-year-old boy near the Lorimer Street L train station on Feb. 7.

The victim told police he was leaving the station near Metropolitan Avenue at 5:30 pm when the troublemakers approached and started pushing him.

One shouted, “You can get jumped here or you can step outside, but either way I’m going to kick your a--!”

The group kicked, hit, and struck him with a stick before they ran away.

## Beat down

Police arrested four suspects who they say beat up a man outside a Berry Street bar on Feb. 11.

The victim told police he got into an argument with the group outside Viva Tora near N. Fourth Street at 4:05 am.

The thugs allegedly punched, kicked, and hit him with a wooden stick before fleeing. Cops arrested them a short time later.

## iGrab

A jerk stole a woman’s iPhone on Lorimer Street in Feb. 9.

The victim told police she was near Conselyea Street at 11 pm when the thief grabbed her phone from her hand and ran down Meeker Avenue.

## Drums solo

A thief stole a drum set from a car parked on N. 12th Street.

The driver parked her car between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue at 9 pm on Feb. 10, but when she returned to the location three hours later, she saw both windows were broken and her drums were missing.

— Aaron Short

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# PARKING...

Continued from page 1

West allegedly leaves gaps of walled curb space in front and behind each vehicle he parks





# Brussels sprout in Brooklyn

## Our love affair with mini cabbage

By Juliet Linderman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Call 'em Breuckelen sprouts. That classically stigmatized vegetable formerly famous for its ability to inspire upturned noses at the dinner table is finally getting the positive press it deserves, in Brooklyn and beyond. That's right: it's the year of the Brussels sprout — and any way you slice, dice, quarter, deep fry or sautee it, these miniature cabbages are making their way onto menus at the best restaurants in the borough, and selling out every night.

"We go through a case a day, it's really amazing," said chef Jamison Blankenship, whose restaurant Chuko in Prospect Heights is lauded for having some of the borough's best Brussels sprouts. "We can go down the street and find them on every menu; it's amazing that the public loves this dish so much, considering Brussels sprouts have never been all that intriguing."

Primarily cultivated in central California, Brussels sprouts are loaded with Vitamin C, fiber and anti-oxidants, in addition to having other distinctly healthy properties — a factor some Brussels sprouts purveyors credit for the vegetable's noticeable increase in popularity over the last six months to a year.

"People are really starting to orient themselves around fresh vegetables, and

Brussels sprouts are green and fresh," said Brooklyn Fare Market General Manager Omar Diallo, who increased his weekly shipment from two-and-a-half cases to five cases beginning in December 2011. "Of every six grocery orders I process now, at least five of them include Brussels sprouts; they're on lots of menus right now; people just love them."

Brussels sprouts are one of the most versatile and dynamic winter vegetables — kept company through the chilly months of by the likes of turnips, squash, kale, parsnips and beets, among others — and chefs and restaurateurs are embracing the Brussels sprout renaissance with open arms, and a diverse flavor profile.

"It's cabbage in a little ball, but it isn't as tough; its leaves are much more tender," said Jimmy Clark, chef de cuisine at The Vanderbilt in Prospect Heights, where he's been serving sprouts since the restaurant opened in 2009. Clark said that sprouts have been a best-seller on the menu since the very beginning, and that the rest of the borough is finally catching on to the craze.

"You can cook them whole, shred them, braise them, make sauerkraut or kimchee, use just the leaves — Brussels and kale you can really do anything under the sun with. And they're very hip right now; they used to be over-

**Eat your veggies:** Pictured right, server Katie Smail shows off Five Leaves' famous sweet and spicy Brussels sprouts.

looked because of that childhood stigma. But now, it's your typical rags to riches vegetable story."



Photos by Stefano Giovannini

## The best spots for sprouts

You don't have to tell us twice to eat our vegetables. Like the rest of the borough, we're having a full-on love affair with Brussels sprouts this winter, and here are a few of our very favorite spots to chow down on these magnificent miniature cabbages.

- Five Leaves, \$8:** These Brussels sprouts are topped with whole pecans that gives this dish a toasty, nutty flavor — not to mention a serious crunch. Additionally, these lightly fried mini cabbages are tossed with a few sprigs of salad greens, providing a healthy and fresh-tasting topping to this sweet, sticky, spicy, mouth-wateringly delicious side dish.
- Five Leaves [18 Bedford Ave. at Lorimer Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5346]
- Chuko, \$7:** These quartered and lightly fried brussels (pictured) are sweet, salty, and spicy all at the same time, making for the most flavorful veggie side dish you can possibly hope for. Slathered in tangy fish sauce and topped with slightly crumbled honey roasted peanuts and thinly sliced hot chili peppers, these brussels are hot and crispy on the outside, and perfectly tender on the in-



side. This Asian-fusion reimagining of the Brussels sprout is indicative of the vegetable's resurgence: it's crept its way into every cuisine.

Chuko [552 Vanderbilt Ave. at Dean Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 576-6701]

- The Vanderbilt, \$5:** There's a reason the Vanderbilt's Brussels are perhaps the most celebrated in Brooklyn. These little guys are quartered and lightly deep fried, leaving the outside leaves hot, crisp and oily, and the insides warm and tender, but never too soft. Then, they're tossed in a vinaigrette made with Sriracha, honey and fresh lime, with a spare sprinkle of cilantro and sesame seeds on top. The Sriracha kick lingers on the tongue, and in the back of the throat, just long enough to bring some heat, while the honey and lime complement each other, creating a versatile flavor trajectory that includes sweet, spicy, salty, smoky, and sour at once.
- The Vanderbilt [570 Vanderbilt Ave. at Bergen Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-0570]
- Prime Meats, \$7:** In typical Prime Meats fashion, these beautiful Brussels are tossed

- with — you guessed it — bacon. But that's not all: these pan-fried Brussels served with a liberal sprinkle of thick, savory, smoky bacon bits are also generously adorned with plump pink pomegranate seeds, adding a sweet, sour and fresh pop to every bite.
- Prime Meats [465 Court St. at Luquer Streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 254-0327]
- Vinegar Hill House, \$8:** Everything at Vinegar Hill House is scrumptious, and the tender, lightly fried Brussels sprouts are no exception. Slathered in thick, tangy whole-grain mustard and topped with toasted hazelnuts, these Brussels are satisfying and flavorful without being too heavy or overpowering; the perfect side to any dish. But take warning: you might not want to share.
- Vinegar Hill House [72 Hudson Ave. between Front and Water streets in Vinegar Hill, (718) 522-1018]
- No. 7, \$6:** Brussels sprouts with chili and garlic — simple, sophisticated, largely absent of bells, whistles, and heavy sauces, allowing the integrity of the versatile vegetable to shine.
- No. 7 [7 Greene Ave. between Cumberland and S. Oxford streets in Fort Greene, (718) 522-6370]

### THEATER

## In the round

A classic — and controversial — play that ties Adolf Hitler to Ronald Reagan is hitting the stage (er, hitting the round) at Brooklyn College this month.

"A Bright Room Called Day," by award-winning playwright Tony Kushner, tells the story of the rise of Hitler through the eyes of a young actress in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis, and how inaction by those who could have stopped him paved the way for the Holocaust to unfold.

"When Hitler came to power, nobody really knew what he was going to do. Nobody took it that seriously," said Mary Beth Easley, artistic director of Brooklyn College's theater department. "The whole thing is a call to action."

The entire play — which will be performed in the round, with the audience surrounding the actors who are arranged in the center of a circle — takes place in a single room.

"A Bright Room Called Day" at Walt Whitman Theatre [2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Midwood (718) 951-4500] on Feb. 23-March 4, 7:30 pm. \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors and \$6 for students. For more information, visit [www.brooklyncenter.com](http://www.brooklyncenter.com)

— Dan MacLeod



Photo by Steve Solomonson

### OPERA

## 'Wright' on!

Hallelujah! Pop star composer Rufus Wainwright is finally poised to unveil his original operatic score in the New York City Opera's production of "Prima Donna," which will open at BAM on Feb. 19. Set in Paris in 1970, "Prima Donna" tells the story of Regine Saint Laurent, an aging opera singer, played by acclaimed vocalist Melody Moore, trying to come to terms with her successes and her failures.

"This story is both sad and triumphant and melodramatic and all the things you want opera to be," Moore said. "There's so much honor in it; it's about self-discovery, late in life."

Both Wainwright and Moore explained that while opera gets a bad rap, seeming boring, inaccessible and antiquated, "Prima Donna" is quite the opposite.

A lot of the time it's more akin to a football game, other times it's the most sensitive flower on earth," Wright said.

"Prima Donna" at BAM [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. Feb. 23-29, 7:30 pm, \$25. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

— Juliet Linderman



Photo courtesy of Glem Petry

### MUSIC

## 'Whiskey' fun

The Man in Black is back — in spirit, anyway. In honor of the late country rock legend Johnny Cash's would-be 80th birthday, the Bell House is throwing a massive bash hosted by honky tonk rockers Alex Battles and the Whisky Rebellion, complete with a sing-along of Cash's greatest hits.

"Johnny Cash was never anybody except Johnny Cash," said Battles. "There are so many artists who spend their lives imitating other artists, trying to figure out who they are, but Johnny Cash was always strong and vulnerable, he was happy and sad — and he's just the coolest guy."

Battles and the Whisky Rebellion will croon Cash's iconic San Quentin set, during which he serenaded the inmates at one of the country's most notorious maximum-security prisons, placing a special emphasis on authenticity; Battles' deep and gritty voice (and a couple of stiff drinks) makes this reenactment a faithful interpretation of the genuine article, even though he and Cash look nothing alike.

"Cash's songs are real fun to sing along to," Battles said. "My dad had a Johnny Cash tape that we listened to in the car, and he would play it over and over again until I learned all the songs by heart."

The Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510] Feb. 24, 8 pm. \$20 (\$15 in advance). For info, visit [www.thebellhouse.ny.com](http://www.thebellhouse.ny.com).

— Colin Mixson



Photo by Katie Kovach

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY  
February 18

**Carnevale crazy**  
Two fun-fueled weeks of music, dancing, debauchery, and general gastronomic excess, Carnevale — which has been celebrated in Italy since ancient times — is the perfect way for the faithful to gear up for the rigors of Lent, and share in the spoils of the family pig before a long, 40-day fast. Can't afford a trip to Italy? Modern day celebrants — have been flocking to Tommaso Restaurant in Bath Beach for years.  
  
5 pm. Tommaso's Restaurant [1464 86th St. between 14th Avenue and Bay Seventh Street in Bath Beach, (718) 236-9883]. \$50.

SUNDAY  
February 19

**Fiddle fanatic**  
Michael Cleveland, the nine-time winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Fiddler of the Year award, is coming to Brooklyn to dazzle folk fans with a display of super-human musicianship. Cleveland, was invited in 1993 to join the International Bluegrass Music Association's Youth All Stars and has since played with Dale Ann Bradley's group and others.  
  
Door time TBA. Southpaw [125 Fifth Ave. between Stirling and St. Johns places in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236] \$20, for info, visit [www.spsounds.com](http://www.spsounds.com)

TUESDAY  
February 21

**Opera-tastic**  
It's an acapella double feature! Regina Opera will present "Cavalleria Rusticana," and "Opera Highlights," back to back, with piano accompaniment, making for one evening chock full of classic music. The conductors for this performance are Teresa Cheung and Jeffrey Bradbury.  
  
7 pm. Regina Hall [1210 65th St. at 12th Avenue, 718-259-2772]. Free, for info visit [www.reginaopera.com](http://www.reginaopera.com).

THURSDAY  
February 23

**Flatscreen bash**  
Celebrate the release of one of Brooklyn's hottest new authors' debut novel, "Flatscreen," which tells the story of story of Eli Schwartz as he endures the loss of his home, the indifference of his parents, the success of his older brother, and the cruel and frequent dismissal of the opposite sex.  
  
8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway at Truxton Street in Bushwick, (718) 453-6343]. Free, for info visit [www.bushwickbookclub.com](http://www.bushwickbookclub.com).

SATURDAY  
February 25

**Winged migration**  
Bring your appetite, stuff your pockets with as many napkins as you can handle and high tail it to Red Star Bar's annual wing contest. Show up, chow down, and vote for the borough's best wings among a selection of wing masters that includes defending champion Life Café 83 of Bushwick, and 2010 champion Super Wings NY of Crown Heights.  
  
12 pm. Red Star Bar [37 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West in Greenpoint, (718) 349-0149]. Free, for info, visit [www.redstarny.com](http://www.redstarny.com)

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, FEB. 17

WORKSHOP, FUN FRIDAYS: Children get together with friends and play video games, draw and read. Free. 4 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).  
MUSIC, WILLIAM HOOKER: Free. 8 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": An evening of short plays about cults. 8:30 pm. Triskelion Arts [118 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (917) 270-7279], [www.PanickedProductions.com](http://www.PanickedProductions.com).

SAT, FEB. 18

PERFORMANCE  
MUSIC, FLEETWOOD MAC COVER SHOW: Indie rock not-so-super-group to perform Fleetwood Mac's 1982 album "Mirage." \$12. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com).  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.  
MUSIC, THE JAZZ TWINS: The twin Le Boeuf brothers take over Sycamore for a night of uncanny jazz. \$10. 10pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmars Park, (347) 240-5850], [www.sycamore-brooklyn.com](http://www.sycamore-brooklyn.com).  
OTHER  
TAX HELP: State Sen. Marty Golden is sponsoring income tax preparation for seniors; by appointment only. Free. 9–11:30 am. District office [7408 Fifth Ave. at 74th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-6044].  
TAX HELP: Need help with filing your returns? LIU Brooklyn is offering to prepare forms for seniors, disabled people and low-income families. Appointment necessary. Bring valid photo ID, social security cards for dependents and self; income records including W-2s and 1099s and if possible last year's returns. Free. 10 am to 2 pm. Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 780-4062].  
CITIZENSHIP PREP: For immigrants planning on applying for US citizenship. Registration required. Free. 10:30 am–1:30 pm and 1:30–4:30 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], [www.ymcanyc.org](http://www.ymcanyc.org).  
READING, MARTHA SOUTHGATE: The author discusses her new book "The Taste of Salt." Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).

SUN, FEB. 19

PERFORMANCE  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.  
OTHER  
READING, MAIRA KALMAN AND MARGARET MCNAMERA: Authors of "Looking at Lincoln" and "George Washington's Birthday," respectively, will celebrate President's Day. Free. 3 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com).

MON, FEB. 20

WORKSHOP, COMPUTER BASICS: Adults learn basic skills. No experience necessary. Free. 1 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330],

Star spangled: Join Maira Kalman, author of "Looking at Lincoln," for a Presidents' Day reading and party at powerHouse Arena on Feb. 20.

Photo by Rick Mayerowitz

http://

Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.  
BEGINNER'S ESL: Students learn basic structure and vocabulary and communicating in English. Registration required. Free. 6:15 to 9:15 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], [www.ymcanyc.org](http://www.ymcanyc.org).  
BINGO NIGHT: Bring your luck. \$3. 6:45 pm. St. Columba RC Church - Auditorium [2245 Kimball St. Avenue U and Avenue V in Marine Park, (718) 338-6265].  
READING, ELLIS AVERY: Author of "The Last Nude." Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

TUES, FEB. 21

BINGO NIGHT: 11 am. See Monday, Feb. 20.  
WORKSHOP, ENGLISH CONVERSATION: Adults practice conversational speech. Free. 1 pm. Coney Island Public Library [1901 Mermaid Ave. at West 19th Street in Coney Island, (718) 265-3220], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).  
WORKSHOP, BOOKBINDING FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP: \$25. 6 pm. WORD [126 Franklin Street between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], [www.wordbrooklyn.com](http://www.wordbrooklyn.com).  
BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Feb. 20.  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

WED, FEB. 22

WORKSHOP, HOMEWORK HELP: Children get after school help with assignments. Free. 4:30 pm. Eastern Parkway Public Library [1044 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 778-9330], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).  
WORKSHOP, TANGO LESSONS: For adults and youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No experience and no partners necessary. Sponsored by the FIAO Beacon program. Pre-registration for youngsters required. Free. 6 pm–9 pm. IS 96 [99 Ave. P at W. 11th Street in Bensonhurst, (718) 232-2266].  
BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Feb. 20.  
THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

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# ‘Black’ with Baratunde

## Onion editor’s hilarious new take on race relations

By Aaron Short  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Fort Greene-based humorist Baratunde Thurston’s new book, “How to Be Black,” is part memoir, part cultural guidebook that will help you make friends with backgrounds different from your own.

Thurston, a stand-up comedian and a digital editor for faux newspaper, The Onion, has been touring the country over the last few weeks, and we were lucky enough to catch up with him during a few slow hours in San Francisco.

**Aaron Short:** How is working at the Onion different from working for a reality-based newspaper?

**Baratunde Thurston:** We invest more in fact-checking, and I think we enjoy it a lot more. Most people who work for reality-based newspapers don’t seem to be very happy these days. We have more fun. We don’t actually have to report, which is convenient.

**AS:** How does it feel to live in President Obama’s post-racial America?

**BT:** There’s a lot in that question. You’ve made it sound like President Obama OWNS America, but that’s not how the country works. And post-racial is a nonexistent thing, so that’s difficult to describe. That’s like asking what it’s like to live in the belly of a dragon or snow angel. Race is still an issue. Race plays a part in many outcomes for people. It’s pretty much the same America in most ways.

**AS:** How is Brooklyn different from the rest of the country when it comes to race relations?

**BT:** Brooklyn is probably better than the rest of the country in most ways. I’m not a historian of Brooklyn,



Race riot: Brooklyn satirist Baratunde Thurston’s new memoir, “How to be Black,” is hot off the presses.

but it is pretty racially diverse. America itself is pretty segregated.

Brooklyn has more types of races than the other places I see, and they’re closer together. I live in Fort Greene. I see many more flavors of America walking in those few blocks than in most of the rest of America. But maybe that’s just because we have less space, so we have to share.

**AS:** What can Brooklynites learn from reading your book about making new friends with backgrounds different from their own?

**BT:** If they’re reading my book in public, they’re going to make instant friends or instant enemies. Don’t tell black people you’re trying to become back, just merely understand it better.

When people make friends across

racial lines there’s a tendency to see that person as a universal spokesperson for their people. Don’t necessarily base your friendship around that, or you’ll be removed from the Friend category and placed in the Annoying-People-I-Know pile.

**AS:** Is it harder for white people to make black friends or for black people to make white friends, and why? And where do Latinos and Asians fit into your analysis?

**BT:** It’s hard for all of us to make Native American friends because we’ve done a good job of wiping them out.

**AS:** How has Facebook and other social networking platforms affected how we make new friends?

**BT:** We can pre-stalk them in ways that we did not have the ability to do

before. We have a little less to talk about than in the past. There’s less discovery, less surprise.

**AS:** Is your book having a conversation with other books, such as Christian Lander’s “Stuff White People Like?” Or should readers something altogether different?

**BT:** I don’t believe in books talking with other books. That’s a frightening world in which books have become self-aware and artificially intelligent.

For people who like “Stuff White People Like,” “Who’s Afraid of Post-Blackness,” by Tourey, “Negrope-dia,” by Patrice Evans, or “Ask A Mexican,” by Gustavo Arellano, this book will be very interesting to them as well. Also, if you like the Bible or The Dictionary, either of those are a good gauge for what you might find in my book — a lot of chapters and a lot of words.

**AS:** What do you miss most about Brooklyn when you’re on the road? And where’s the first place you want to go when you come back home?

**BT:** I miss my bed, which is in Brooklyn. There’s nothing about my bed that’s Brooklyn except that it spends more time in Brooklyn than I do. Other than going to my bed, or my couch, I also really like Smith Street and the restaurants there, and a Thai restaurant called National in Fort Greene — there’s nothing over \$10 and it’s amazing. I especially miss brunching in Brooklyn. It’s a way of life. Soco on Myrtle and Grand is very very delicious. And Char No. 4 on Smith Street for Whiskey. Always whiskey.

Baratunde Thurston’s “How to Be Black,” is now available at your local bookstore. For info, visit [www.baratunde.com](http://www.baratunde.com).

# Benincasa books it!

## Agora-no-bic comedian celebrates her new book

By Juliet Linderman  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Not only did Sara Benincasa conquer her agoraphobic fear of leaving her apartment — she became a standup comedian, and wrote a whole book about it.

Benincasa will celebrate the release of “Agorafabulous,” a collection of short, humorous stories that chronicles one woman’s struggle with crippling agoraphobia — a panic disorder character-

ized by fear of public places and open spaces — and how she overcame her demons through therapy and comedy, on Feb. 28 at WORD bookstore in Greenpoint.

“The book deals with my evolution from a pretty bold teenager to someone who was housebound and afraid to leave her room, even go to the bathroom, in college, to someone who eventually becomes a standup comedian,” she said.

Benincasa’s tone is easy



**BOOKS**  
Sara Benincasa celebrates “Agorafabulous!” at WORD [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. Feb. 28, 7 pm, free. For info, visit [www.wordbrooklyn.com](http://www.wordbrooklyn.com).

and conversational, and her razor-sharp wit is laced with the kind of wise and biting self-deprecation that comes only with the confidence

of a seasoned comedian, though things weren’t always so easy for her; in her late teenage years and into her early twenties, Benincasa became plagued by panic attacks, terrified to leave her cramped campus quarters in college. It took years for her to muster the courage to begin a recovery process that involved much medication and therapy — not exactly funny stuff. But through her stories — which originated first as part of an evolving standup act that she honed into a one-woman show, and eventually ended up on the pages of her first book — Benincasa explores and reflects upon her own fears and experiences, and in turning her trauma into comedy, pens a hilarious tribute to her former self.

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# It's food gossip time

This week's helping of steamy, meaty dining news



Four area restaurants double down, Brownstone Brooklyn gets meatier, and Carroll Garden's builds a better burger in this week's scrumptious serving of gossip.

**Moo-sic to our ears:** The

grass-fed patties peddled at newcomer Burgersmith (which quietly opened for business a week ago on the corner of Baltic and Smith Streets, in the old Faan space) are enough to make you melt. The cow is ground daily at nearby butcher shop Paisanos and griddled on a cast iron flat top, before being slapped on special Portuguese muffins from Cape Cod. Vegans and pesco-pollo vegetarians will also find their perfect patty — turkey, quinoa-nut-

veggie and seared rainbow trout options all grace the highly customizable menu.

**Give me some honey:** In other expansion news, cozy Cobble Hill café Ted and Honey has opened a spacious new eatery called BLDG 92 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center. They now have a full-fledged catering division as well — Parker Red Culinary Events — which exclusively supplies food to the 8,000

square food event space. Caramelized banana and maple oatmeal for everyone!

**Happy trailers:** 3rd Ward's by-gone Goods truck, a restored 1946 trailer that briefly peddled burgers, dogs, and fried green tomato sandwiches on the corner of Metropolitan Avenue and Lorimer Street, will see new life as an art deco-styled Mexican eats truck called Zona Rosa. According to dناinfo.com, the owners of Mesa Coyo-

can will serve tacos and margaritas to Williamsburg revelers late into the night.

**Do the brew:** Our friends at The Local (hey there, Kuntzman!) report that the DeKalb Market will boast a brand new wine-and-beer license when it reopens this spring. Cheeky Sandwiches, Robicelli's cupcakes, indie designer duds and now craft suds too? Forget the Fulton Mall, come April, we're not leaving Willoughby Street.

**So meaty:** Bay Ridge's Burger Bistro has ruled the neighborhood's ground-protein scene since 2010 — think antelope, elk, kobe, veal osso bucco, shrimp scampi, and of course, donut — so it was only a matter of time before Brownstone Brooklyn angled for a taste. Park Slope will add to its growing bounty of culinary riches with a 1,000 square foot Fifth Avenue outpost this March.



**Sweet as honey:** Chris Ted Jackson (with his child Sofie Jackson), owner of Ted and Honey cafe in Cobble Hill, recently opened an eatery in the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center.

## BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy

I caught a cold this week, so I decided to treat it with...

**HOT TODDIES**

10 bars later, here's what I found:

The off-menu toddy at Sample is simple, traditional, and perfect.

It's just fresh lemon, Ezra Brooks bourbon, honey, and 4 ounces of hot water \* (\$7.)

The Richardson makes a nice toddy, with added spices.

giant lemon wedge spiked with cloves

And it's got a generous splash of Virginia Gentleman.

cinnamon stick

\$9

The Spiced Cinnamon Toddy at Crown Victoria will clear out your sinuses

dusted with cayenne pepper

it uses cinnamon tea instead of just water

Evan Williams bourbon

\$7

The Bourbon Insider Hot Toddy at Char No. 4 is more of a spiked cider, but I'm including it because it's delicious.

apple cider, ginger, Old Crow bourbon, maple syrup

**RESULTS:**

My cold is almost gone, but now I'm hung over.

\* Most places use way too much water. Stop it!

**Sample** [152 Smith St. between Bergen and Wyckoff streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 643-6622]. **The Richardson** [451 Graham Ave. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0839]. **Crown Victoria** [60 S. Second St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 387-0003]. **Char No. 4** [196 Smith St. between Warren and Baltic streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 643-2106].

# Kolache crazy

Breakfast pastries take Brooklyn

By Sarah Zorn  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Autumn Stanford is the Queen of Kolaches. No clue what a kolache (pronounced kola-chee) is? That'll hardly come as surprise to Stanford — the owner of the upcoming Brooklyn Kolache Co. in Bed Stuy — whose mission statement is to get the borough hooked on the sweet and savory Czechoslovakian pastries so popular in her home state of Texas.

"Kolache's are an obsession there — you can find them in any donut shop or gas station at the side of the road," Stamford said. "They're made with a slightly sweet, chewy, yeasty dough wrapped around fillings like strawberry, cottage cheese, poppy seed or cherry, or even ham, egg, hot dog, or jalapeno."

"It's like an ultra-portable, grab-and-go, self-contained breakfast sandwich — perfect for New York, really," she added. "I was kind of amazed I couldn't find them anywhere here."

That's why Stamford decided to take matters into her own hands, signing a lease on a 1,000 square foot space (with additional backyard) with the hopes of opening



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

**A whole lotta kolaches:** Autumn Stanford, owner of the Brooklyn Kolache Company, shows off her homemade savory and sweet kolaches.

## DINING

**Brooklyn Kolache Co.** [520 DeKalb Ave. between Skillman Street and Bedford Avenue in Bedford Stuyvesant]. For more info, visit [www.brooklynkolacheco.com](http://www.brooklynkolacheco.com).

her own shop by the end of March.

"I want to make this a great place for the neighborhood," Stamford said. "One that can be used for meet-ups and community board meetings. A place where moms can put their kids down for a second and relax with a good cup of coffee and something

delicious to eat."

That being said, Stamford fully expects the bulk of her business to come from harried morning commuters.

"The other thing that makes kolaches perfect for New York is that they're made in advance and just kept warm — it's not like ordering a breakfast sandwich and having to wait five minutes while someone fries the eggs," she said.

"You can eat these on the run. You can eat them on the train. You can order up a few kolaches along with a cup of coffee and be out the door seconds."

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

### THURS, FEB. 23

**BLACK MIGRATIONS:** Key-note speaker Dr. Jo-Ann Graham discusses Black History month, followed by a performance by the Choir and black Theater students. **Free.** 10 am–2 pm. New York City College of Technology Klitgord Center Auditorium [285 Jay St. at Tillary Street in Downtown, (718) 260-5102], [www.citytech.cuny.edu](http://www.citytech.cuny.edu).

**TALK, BLACK MIGRATIONS:** A lecture. **Free.** 10 am. New York City College of Technology Klitgord Center Auditorium [285 Jay St. at Tillary Street in Downtown, (718) 260-5102], [www.citytech.cuny.edu](http://www.citytech.cuny.edu).

**WORKSHOP, ENGLISH CONVERSATION:** 1 pm. See Tuesday, Feb. 21.

**WORKSHOP, BOOK DISCUSSION:** For adults; call for titles. **Free.** 2 pm. Gravesend Public Library [303 Ave. X between West First and West Second streets in Gravesend, (718) 382-5792], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).

**WORKSHOP, CROCHET:** Adults meet every week and work on their projects. 2 pm. Midwood Public Library [975 E. 16th St. between Avenues J and I in Midwood, (718) 252-0967], [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org).

**TAX HELP:** 6–8 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 18.

**BEGINNER'S ESL:** 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Feb. 20.

**TALK, ALISON BECHDEL:** Author of "Starting from Paumanok" will deliver a lecture. **Free.** 6:30 pm–8:30 pm. Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], [www.brooklyn.liu.edu](http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu).

**TALK, ALISON BECHDEL:** Internationally acclaimed lesbian cartoonist will

deliver the Paumanok Lecture. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], [www.brooklyn.liu.edu](http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu).

**THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER":** 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

### FRI, FEB. 24

**TAX HELP:** 10 am to 2 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 18.

**WORKSHOP, FUN FRIDAYS:** 4 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

**MUSIC, ESNAVI:** **Free.** 8 pm. BAMCafe [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**THEATER, "THE UNEXPECTED GUEST":** A performance by the Narrows Community Theater. \$20. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium [97th St. at Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173], [www.NarrowsCommunityTheater.com](http://www.NarrowsCommunityTheater.com).

**THEATER, "FOLLOW THE LEADER":** 8:30 pm. See Friday, Feb. 17.

### SAT, FEB. 25

#### PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, "THE UNEXPECTED GUEST":** 8 pm. See Friday, Feb. 24.

**THEATER, "THE UNEXPECTED GUEST":** 8 pm. See Friday, Feb. 24.

#### OTHER

**TAX HELP:** 9–11:30 am. See Saturday, Feb. 18.

**TAX HELP:** 10 am to 2 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 18.

**CITIZENSHIP PREP:** 10:30 am–1:30 pm and 1:30–4:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 18.

**CLASSIC COCKTAIL COURSE:** rum: Learn to make a variety of rum cocktails. \$45. 5 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], [www.sycamore-brooklyn.com](http://www.sycamore-brooklyn.com).

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# Gay or straight, it’s OK

My kids’ questions often make me wrestle with my own values and opinions — like how I feel about homosexuality.

A few years ago, when he was around 8, my older son looked at me with a glint in his dark chocolate eyes as we walked home from school. “Mommy,” he said, “have you ever kissed a girl?”

Maybe it was Katie Perry’s song that provoked this, or his budding friendship with a boy with two moms. I didn’t know. Likely he didn’t know either, which is why I didn’t ask.

I stopped myself before assuming anything, as I often try to do (to middling success.) Maybe I didn’t need to address homosexuality. Maybe this was far more benign.

Calmly, I questioned his question.

“Do you mean like how I kiss Grandma or like how I kiss Daddy?”

Okay. Maybe it was obvious, but differentiating loving kisses from romantic kisses was important.

“Like how you kiss Daddy,” he said.

Damn. We were going to

have to go there. The answer was easy. It was no. But I felt guilty suddenly, like it made me prejudice against lesbianism just because I had never engaged in it. Like I wouldn’t condone my son’s potential homosexual leanings if I myself didn’t lean that way. Political correctness can be a real burden. I didn’t want him to think under any circumstances that I might judge him negatively or not love him if he should be gay.

I tried to sound blasé when I told him that in fact no, I hadn’t kissed a girl.

“I don’t know why,” I said. “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with it, it’s just not something I wanted to do.”

As I said the words, I believed them, but then I had to question myself. Did I not want to kiss a girl or did I just think I shouldn’t because it was socially taboo? It’s hard sometimes to ascertain the reasoning of even our own brains. I can recall certain stirrings when I would be talking intimately with a girl friend. If the girl had been a boy in that moment, if the world then was as open and experimental a place as it is now, I might very well have



## Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

used a kiss to express myself. I certainly did that often enough with boys who were friends, albeit to sometimes disastrous ends.

I am in fact more sexually attracted to men than women, and it was never a conscious struggle on my part to refrain from kissing girls. Now, though, as political debates rage over the rights of gay couples and the media goes round and round to try to figure how and why people become gay, I worry that my children will be confused. Even if they don’t feel gay, maybe society’s openness, maybe my openness, will make them consider it more seriously. Is that bad?

Probably not. I think freedom of choice is a great thing, a necessary thing. But as a parent it would be so nice to have a set of rules, a handbook with easy-to-follow instructions: a THIS IS RIGHT

and THIS IS WRONG for every decision. Doesn’t it seem easier? I wish I could follow the Bible or the Quran or the Book of Mormon and stand by the tenets of those tomes with unwavering assurance. But I am not that person, I am not that parent.

I feel guilty sometimes about my openness because I think my kids will have to struggle harder to determine who they are when it comes to sexual orientation, and other things, because I do not often give them hard and fast guidelines. But then I remember: I do not know who they are. They are just in the process of figuring it out for themselves, which is how it has to be, and all I can do is stay near and cheer them on.

Sexuality is possibly the utmost of life’s inexplicable things and I do not deign decide for my children how they will live their own lives. I

sometimes falter and believe a harsh dictate from me might make them feel safer with their decisions. But then I remember that even the most devout religious folk struggle despite the rules they have promised to follow.

My gay friends tell me when I ask, usually, that they “just knew.” Their often homophobic families certainly did not encourage experimentation or make sure they knew it was okay. It was a struggle for many of them to come out and I would never want that to be the case with my kids.

That’s why we sometimes go overboard in our house. Marriage itself is not an assumption we make for our children, though they speak often of wanting wives and kids someday. I corrected myself recently when I chastised the boys about how their wives would be disgusted with them if they didn’t know how to make beds.

“I mean girlfriends...” I said.

“Or boyfriends...” my husband piped in.

“Right,” I said, “absolutely. Or both...”

I will love them no matter what.

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# COFFEE...

Continued from page 1

hoods like Park Slope, Fort Greene and Prospect Heights are ordering the small, foamy, surprisingly grown-up beverages for their pint-sized offspring.

And the kids are asking for refills.

“Our children love babyccinos!” said Eric Worcester, who ordered them for his kids, Evelyn, 5, and Shirley, 2, at Sit and Wonder on Washington Avenue on Saturday (He and his wife had more traditional beverages).

The folks behind Sit and Wonder also sell babyccinos at their Fort Greene coffee-house Bittersweet, where a barista said she serves up between five and 10 of the kiddie drinks daily.

Gemma Redwood, co-owner of the two coffee joints,

ing a line in the foam.

“I have one customer who says that and it annoys the hell out of me,” said Sean Chin of Gorilla Coffee in Park Slope. “It is not on our menu — which we are making an effort to stick to.”

Babyccino is hardly a scientific term, with some shops and customers using the word to describe a macchiato-like beverage featuring a shot of decaf espresso topped with steamed milk and froth, while others use it to describe steamed milk with foam on top and a touch of cinnamon. Baristas around the borough say they get requests for both versions of the drink.

The trend started in Australia about a decade ago with milk-only babyccinos and quickly became the bane of many a barista’s existence, according to Aussie coffee expert Paul Caligiore.

“They interrupt workflow, create milk wastage and can

be served at a dangerous temperature to a vulnerable consumer,” said Caligiore, who despite his misgivings about the drink, plans to begin selling the world’s first instant babyccino. “Babyccinos have become so popular in Australia it would be difficult to find a cafe that doesn’t have them on their menu.

The trend spread to England and YouTube, where parents post videos of their kids enjoying the drink.

Fans of babyccinos say the drink’s popularity has surged in Brooklyn in recent months.

The concoction might be Brooklyn’s first coffee beverage marketed primarily to children, but it’s certainly not the first time the borough’s adult venues have catered to kids. The Tea Lounge in Park Slope offers “stroller parking” and makes a point of allowing patrons to breast-feed their infants on the ca-

fe’s many couches.

Babyccinos can help coffee shops reach a whole new generation of java drinkers — and that’s not necessarily a bad thing for children.

Doctors say that caffeine is not healthy for kids in large quantities, but a decaf shot of espresso contains less caffeine than a soda.

“A small percentage of caffeine on a non-regular basis is probably okay,” said Dr. Deena Blanchard, a pediatrician at Premier Pediatrics who remained skeptical of the kiddie coffee.

Lots of Brooklyn moms have no qualms exposing their kids to the borough’s booming cafe culture.

“My child has been going to cafes since he was a newborn,” said Katherine Haver, a freelancer who works out of coffee shops, sometimes with her nearly two-year-old son. “Coffee shop” was one of his first words.”

# MS 103...

Continued from page 1

in much worse condition than we’re in.”

The decision came during a chaotic night of school closure votes at Brooklyn Technical High School in Fort Greene, where the Department of Ed-

ucation panel determined the fate of 23 other city schools as United Federation of Teachers demonstrators and their supporters booed and chanted “All day, all week, occupy the DOE!” and “Boycott Walcott!” —referring to Schools Chan-

cellor Dennis Walcott.

City officials spared the Clinton Hill middle school Kappa VII from the chopping block, saying that the struggling middle school was likely to improve, but argued that MS 103 was dysfunctional to the point of no return.

“Parents are crying out for better options and this isn’t good enough,” said the city’s chief academic officer, Shael Polakow-Suransky. “This is about building something new from the ground up.”

Department of Education officials said it’s often wiser to start from scratch than try to mend a broken school.

“It’s not always our belief that helping a school externally will do anything,” said spokesman Frank Thomas. “Often you’ll need a new program and school culture.”

MS 103, also called Satellite Three, dropped in progress reports from a B in 2008-09 to a C the next year, followed by a D in 2010-11. Only 19 percent of students performed at grade level in English during the last school year, and 34 percent were at grade level in math, according to city data.

Parents say things went bad in 2010, when former principal Kenyette Reid quit to open his an all boys’ school.

Since Reid’s departure, MS 103 has gone through three principals, including Ronald Wells, who critics claim alienated teachers and parents, and Beatrice Thompson, who took the job in September.

“I and many other parents called 311, we asked for help, and no one gave it to us,” Small said.

But Education officials said

MS 103 was given enough coaching and curriculum support before the city launched its plan to close the school last fall. Supporters devised a reform program, but were shot down by the city.

Critics say the school’s failure is unsurprising, considering the push to close other low-performing institutions.

“This is a travesty,” said

Benjamin Greene, president of the Community Education Council for District 13, which includes Clinton Hill. “We’ve been playing Russian Roulette with principals and yet the only solution is to close schools, not save them.”

Current MS 103 students will graduate over the next two years, but the school will stop taking rising sixth graders.

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For more information, contact Surprise Lake Camp at [www.surpriselake.org](http://www.surpriselake.org), or our winter office (open from September 1 – June15): 307 Seventh Avenue – Suite 900, New York, NY 10001; Phone: 212-924-3131. The summer office is located at the camp: (June 16 – August 31) 382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516; 845-265-3616.

# PS 19...

Continued from page 1

said when a new school opens in the building it will keep the Roberto Clemente name because “it’s been around so long and the community feels connected to the school.”

But neighborhood leaders called the vote a “travesty” and urged the city to take the 378-child school off its closure list.

“The community needs to be a partner to improve our city’s schools instead of being treated like pawns,” said Community Board 1 member Esteban Duran.

The struggling S. Third Street school had a remarkably high attendance rating of 94 percent, but received an “F” grade in its 2010-2011

school progress report. Only one in five students scored proficient levels in reading comprehension and math, city statistics show.

Parents and teachers argued that the Department of Education has not provided enough support for the school to succeed, pointing to the dearth math and science teachers and the fact there is no librarian.

But they couldn’t sway city officials, who ruled that PS 19 will eliminate its kindergarten, first, and second grade classes over the next three years. Starting in 2013, the new school will start bringing in students.

Some Williamsburg parents say the city’s plan leaves their preteens in limbo.

“My third-grade son will be forced to stay in a terrible school,” said PS 19 parent Monica Batista, one of 40 who attended the hearing.

Community advocates say the Department of Education should get more input from parents before opening a new school at Roberto Clemente and add a dual-language program for English- and Spanish-speaking youngsters.

“From a cultural standpoint, we can only hope that the administration has the cognizance of mind to understand the importance that the school’s name holds for this community,” said Williamsburg community leader Jason Otano. “Future iterations of P.S. 19 should continue to pay homage to this great Latino humanitarian.”

— with Kate Briquelet

# POWER...

Continued from page 1

tor, told North Brooklynites at a meeting at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

When finished, the anaerobic gas plant, dubbed “the fart factory” by The Brooklyn Paper, will collect swamp gas from sludge processed at the Newtown Creek sewage plant, clean it, and convert it into about 550 million cubic feet of utility-grade natural gas per year — enough to heat 2,500 homes.

The money set aside for environmental projects in Greenpoint comes from a \$10-million payout issued to Albany by the city after settling a lawsuit in 2008 for violating a bevy of pol-

lution laws.

So far, the state has distributed \$8 million to several environmental initiatives in Greenpoint, including a proposed \$3-million boathouse — but the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has not yet allocated the remaining \$2 million.

If National Grid follows through with its gas-to-gas plan, the power company would pay the city \$1 million annually for access to the sewage fumes.

Critics say the plan stinks, blasting government bureaucrats for shuffling money owed to the community from the city, to the state, to an energy company, and

back to the city — a process they cynically call “recycling.”

“Oh hell no! You gotta be crazy!” said Greenpoint resident Laura Hofmann. “If National Grid could think that our money could be used so a city agency could get more money, that’s absurd!”

A National Grid spokeswoman would not say if the utility company is seeking the state grants, but noted that it is exploring “additional sources of funding.”

The company is close to securing a contractor for the project and will bankroll the bulk of the renewable energy endeavor itself, she said.

A spokeswoman for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority said the organization has not yet received a request from National Grid for

the environmental grant.

The fart factory has had its detractors long before the state finding fiasco.

National Grid wants to put the facility on Greenpoint Avenue next to the wastewater treatment plant’s Visitor’s Center. But the city already plans to put a tree-lined park with an elegant fountain at the location — sparking opposition from critics who want a Greenpoint with more green space.

And when it comes to environmental issues in North Brooklyn, neither the city nor National Grid are particularly popular — both are considered potentially liable parties for decades of contamination in Newtown Creek, which caused federal officials to declare the toxic waterway a Superfund site.



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State University of New York  
Notice to Bidders



The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project NO.07-111 Titled: **"Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Alterations"** until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on **Friday March 16, 2012**. Submit bids to the office of Mr. Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate, Contracts and Procurement, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The proposals will then be publicly opened and read aloud at 811 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, *Conference Room # 2-11*.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within Five Hundred and Forty Five (545) calendar days, starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the Agency.

Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus at: SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Facilities Management and Development Plan Room, Box 13, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098.

- A **Mandatory** Pre-bid Conference and Project Walk-through will be held on Wednesday March 7, 2012 with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory conference will begin promptly at 11:00am. No individual or additional walk-through will be performed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Project Walkthrough may submit a proposal on this project. Any contractor who attended the Pre-bid Conference and Site Walkthrough on January 6, 2012 will not be required to attend the mandatory walkthrough on March 7, 2012.
- Qualifications of Bidders:**
  - All prospective bidders are hereby notified that, on request of the University, they must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the University that they have the skill and experience, as well as the necessary facilities, ample financial resources, organization and general reliability to do the work to be performed under the provisions of the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified.  
The project is approximately 3,500 square feet in size. There is a make ready phase, where a temporary PICU is established in another room on the floor, followed by the main construction phase. The PICU contains five pediatric intensive care patient rooms - one is an isolation room - as well as associated ancillary spaces. It is a state-of-the-art facility that embraces evidence based design and family-centered care. The level of finishes would be considered moderate to high-end and the millwork is custom.
  - Each bidder must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has working capital available for the Project upon which it is bidding in an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$100,000 of the amount of its Total Bid plus 10 percent of the next \$900,000 plus 5 percent of the remainder of its Total Bid. Working capital is defined as the excess of current assets over current liabilities. The University defines current assets as assets which can be reasonably expected to be converted into cash within a year, and current liabilities as debts which will have to be paid within a year.
  - A bidder must also be prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of the University, that it has successfully completed a contract of similar work in a similar hospital environment of an amount of not less than 75 percent (75%) of the amount of its Total Bid. This work must include either pediatric intensive care patient rooms; adult pediatric intensive care patient rooms; protective environment patient rooms; or the gut renovation of a department of not less than eight medical/ surgical patient rooms on an occupied inpatient medical/ surgical floor. PICU, ICU, Protective Environment Rooms and Medical / Surgical Rooms are defined in the 2010 GFI Guidelines for Health Care Facilities. For the purposes of this bid a gut renovation shall be defined as the complete demolition of the space including the existing department interior walls and existing infrastructure systems followed by the reconstruction of that area including new infrastructure systems. A qualifying gut renovation must, specifically, include new mechanical systems.

Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from Dan Devine, Purchase Associate, Contracts and Procurement Department, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Tel. (718) 826-5009, email: Dan.Devine@Downstate.edu

Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$49.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are nonrefundable. This fee is waived if the bidder has previously bid on this project.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.


The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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DeBlasio Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

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